

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 AID-20 IO-14

DRC-01 /161 W

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R 280805Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5924

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 3451

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR

SUBJECT: REPORTED SOVIET DISCUSSION WITH GOE ABOUT MINE
AND BOMB CLEARANCE FROM EGYPTIAN TERRITORY

REF: CAIRO 1359

1. MARCH 25 ROSE AL-YOUSSEF REPORTS THAT DELEGATION OF SOVIET EXPERTS IN MINE CLEARANCE HAS BEGUN PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS IN SUEZ CANAL AND OTHER AREAS WHERE THERE MAY BE ISRAELI BOMBS, INCLUDING NAG HAMAD: (AHAM HAS REPORTED THAT SOVIET GROUP VISITED ISMAILIYYA MARCH 24 AND SUEZ MARCH 25). REPORT STATES THAT DELEGATION HEADED BY VICTOR LITVINOV AND INCLUDING AN "ADMIRAL BALAHIN" (PHONETIC), HAS MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMY HEGAZI, AND OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF WAR, POWER, COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY. HEGAZI REPORTEDLY SAID HE HOPED SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN REMOVING MINES AND BOMBS FROM WATERWAYS AND CIVILIAN AREAS "WOULD MATCH SOVIET ARMS ASSISTANCE". REPORT ADDS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF SOVIET GROUP PARTICIPATED IN CLEARANCE OF
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EXPLOSIVES FROM ALGERIA AFTER ALGERIAN LIBERATION WAR, AS

WELL AS BANGLADESH AND VIETNAM--"ESPECIALLY AT HAIPHONG PORT".
ROSE'S ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT REPORT BY SOVIETS ON THEIR
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO
GOE THIS WEEK.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MARCH 27 PRESS GIVES NO NEW MOVES OF
SOVIET GROUP, EARLIER COVERAGE INDICATES CONTINUED INTENSE
INTEREST ON PART OF SOVIETS IN ANY HIGH-VISIBILITY OPERATION
WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEM TO SHOW THEIR PARTICIPATION IN
EGYPTIAN RECONSTRUCTION, WHILE DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY ARE
NOT BEING BYPASSED BY THE US IN THIS FIELD.
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